

Washington, D.C. - Tonight, Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez called upon President Bush to sign the Emergency Supplemental Conference Report. Congressman Rodriguez joined a majority in the US House of Representatives to approve the Conference Report, sending the bill to the US Senate for a vote before heading to the President for immediate signature.

“The Emergency Supplemental Conference Report contains much needed funds to support the immediate needs of our troops on the battlefield, injured soldiers returning from combat, and our veterans. President Bush needs to sign this bill to show his support for the troops and require Iraqis to stand up and take control of their country.

“The Conference Report ensures that U.S. forces in the field have all the resources they need, increases our efforts to fight terrorism against al-Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan, and improves military healthcare for our returning service members and gives an additional \$1.8 billion for veterans. In addition, the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) funds included in the bill will guarantee that communities across the nation can move forward with military construction projects including new state of the art medical facilities in San Antonio.”

Key provisions in the Emergency Supplemental Conference Report:

**President's Request**   **Conference Report**

Defense Health   1.1 billion   3.3 billion

BRAC   3.1 billion   3.1 billion

Veterans   0   1.8 billion